

FEET

DRAWER

3A

APPEARANCE

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Abraham Lincoln's Appearance

Feet

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Executive mansion, Washington, Dec. 4, 1861

My Dear madam:

[Herty 846]

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of Nov. 26; and in thanking you for the present by which it was accompanied. A pair of socks so fine, and soft, and warm, could hardly have been manufactured in any other way than the old Kentucky fashion. (over)

Mrs. Susannah Weathers

Rossville, Clinton County, Ind.



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A RELIC OF LINCOLN

Miss Catherine Jones of the Chicago Historical Society is seen trying on a huge wooden skate which was presented to President Lincoln. The reason for the odd gift is shrouded in mystery; but it is believed the big skate was intended as a practical joke in reference to Lincoln's large feet—a joke which he, with his penchant for practical jests, could appreciate and enjoy.

Bellevue Ave 2-9-24

Lincoln's Bootjack.

[From the Chicago Times.]

1885

Among the hundreds of historical relics in the Libby Prison War Museum there are few more interesting than Abraham Lincoln's bootjack. It is interesting because of the inscrutable mystery surrounding it. The museum, it is true, is filled with old bricks with jack-knife autographs on them, and also teeth marks, where the prisoners attempted to gnaw their way out. There are also many old bullets and handcuffs and things, and pieces of flooring with checkerboards carved on them, but they fail to furnish the food for speculation afforded by the bootjack.

It is a common, hard wood, hand-made bootjack, with a cross cleat nailed on the under side at the foot of the jaws, just like any other bootjack. It has a small tuft of short, brindle hair sticking to one of the jaw points. When a boy Mr. Lincoln made the bootjack and always used it to pull off his boots. It is now stained with age and the nail heads are rusting in the wood. For nearly twenty-five years it has been reverently kept in a glass case, where it was never once profaned by the touch of vandal hands. It is still in the case, and has never been used for any purpose whatever since the days of Lincoln. Therefore it would interest the world at large to know just when and where it was that Mr. Lincoln threw his bootjack at the brindle cat.

"N.Y. World" Dec 1, 1889

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S SHOEMAKER

How a Poor German Cobbler Won sudden Fame and Fortune

Near the city of Beranton, Pa., at the outbreak of the late rebellion, there lived a poor German shoemaker named Peter Kahler. He had his own ideas of how a foot or a shoe should be made to give the greatest comfort to the wearer, which were far in advance of his humble condition, but he lacked the capital necessary to put his ideas into the shoes, and the shoes before the public. Shortly after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency the press of the country was full of the oddities of experience, witty sayings and peculiarities of "Old Abe."

Among the many publications of that time there appeared a diagram of the foot of the President, coupled with the statement that the President's feet were so abnormally large and awkward of limb, and covered with corns, bunions, etc., that it seemed impossible for him to get a shoe which he could wear with any degree of comfort. The statement and the accompanying diagram came to the notice of the humble country shoemaker, Peter Kahler, and he set about the making of a pair of shoes according to his ideas of comfort and to fit the measurements of that diagram. In due course the shoes were completed and shipped to Washington, D. C., addressed to His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, accompanied by a note, signed by the rustic shoemaker, stating under what circumstances the shoes had been made and hoping that the President would accept the shoes as a present from an humble shoemaker and for the good the maker felt sure they would do him.

The shoes proved to be a perfect fit for the Presidential feet and pleased His Excellency very much. Mr. Lincoln lost no time in sending to Mr. Kahler an autograph letter of thanks, which the rustic disciple of St. Crispin was shrewd enough to have published. The publication of that letter brought both fame and fortune to Mr. Kahler. He soon after removed to New York, where he became known as the Presidential bootmaker and was patronized by the wealthy, whose carriages were frequently to be seen in front of his door. During the war Kahler took a Government contract for furnishing shoes for the army, introducing the now celebrated broad-soled, low-beeled shoe, known as the "Government shoe." He made considerable money from his trade and the contract and soon established the house of Kahler & Son.

Up to the time of his death Mr. Lincoln bought all the shoes he wore of Mr. Kahler. During the last two years of his life Mr. Kahler spent much of his time at Harvey's Lake, the Indian name of which is Skandara Lake, the largest body of fresh water in Pennsylvania and a popular summer resort. It was while at Harvey's Lake, in 1888, that Mr. Kahler conceived the scheme of establishing what he called the "Kahler Sanitarium." This scheme he thought would bring him much wealth, and in the Fall of that year he bought of Mrs. Betsey Worden her farm of about fifty acres for \$20,000 and at once had a survey made, and the portion of the farm bordering on the lake beautifully laid out in winding streets and building lots. Finding that his land was not so shaped that he could complete his plans, he wanted to buy the adjoining ground, known as the "Lake Hotel" property, owned by the estate of Caroline Rhoads, deceased, for which he offered \$20,000 each, the offer being refused. In the Spring of the present year Kahler moved his family from New York to his Harvey's Lake farm, hoping to benefit his health, which had been failing, with the pure mountain air. Being a chronic dyspeptic, he suffered greatly until July last, when he died. He sank about \$15,000 in his "Sanitarium" and "Mountain Village" schemes, but nevertheless left a large estate. He frequently related with pride that he was Lincoln's shoemaker, and the autograph letter he always carried with him.

A Widow of St...

Stern Broth

DIRECT ATTENTION TO

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MADE LINCOLN'S BOOTS.

A Shoemaker Who Made the Martyred President's Footgear. 1889

[From the New York Press.]

Near the City of Scranton, Pa., at the outbreak of the late rebellion, there lived a poor German shoemaker named Peter Kahler. He had his own ideas of how a boot or a shoe should be made to give the greatest comfort to the wearer, which were far in advance of his humble condition, but he lacked the capital necessary to put his ideas into the shoes and the shoes before the public. Shortly after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency the press of the country was full of the oddities of expression, witty sayings and peculiarities of "Old Abe."

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The shoes proved to be a perfect fit for the pre-idential pedal extremities and pleased his Excellency very much. Mr. Lincoln lost no time in sending to Mr. Kahler an autograph letter of thanks, which the rustic disciple of St. Crispin was shrewd enough to have published. The publication of that letter brought both fame and fortune to Mr. Kahler. He soon after removed to New York, where he became known as the presidential boot-maker, and was patronized by the wealthy, whose carriages were frequently to be seen in front of his door. During the war Kahler took a Government contract for furnishing shoes for the army, introducing the now celebrated broad-soled, low-heeled shoe, known as the "Government shoe." He made considerable money from his trade and the contract and soon established the house of Kahler & Son.

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A SHOEMAKER who died at Scandara, Pa., not long ago, started a fortune from making shoes for President Lincoln. The President had large, ungainly feet, and all he wanted was to have easy shoes. He could not get shoemakers to make his shoes large enough. Soon after he was elected in 1860 Peter Kahler, a Scranton, Pa., shoemaker, obtained an outline drawing of one of the President's feet and sent him a pair of shoes that suited him exactly. Lincoln wrote a letter of thanks to Mr. Kahler, which he was shrewd enough to have published. It brought him fame and he removed to New York, became a "doctor," chiropodist, and a specialist. His place was on Broadway below Fourteenth street. Carriage people patronized him and he accumulated a considerable fortune. Lincoln continued to buy shoes of Kahler to the time of his death. Kahler had visionary schemes for getting great wealth two years or more before he died. He bought about 50 acres of ground on the border of Harvey's Lake, largest lake in Pennsylvania, in 1888. The Indian name of the lake is Lako Scandara. Mr. Kahler proposed to build a big village and establish a "Kahler's sanitarium." He sunk considerable money in the scheme, but left a large estate nevertheless. 1889

A GREAT MAN'S FEET. 1892

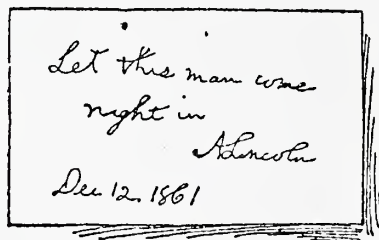
Two Picturesque Diagrams Presented by Abraham Lincoln's Shoemaker.

Numerous relic hunters and curiosity seekers have recently been vainly trying to gain possession of an interesting curiosity connected with Abraham Lincoln, says the Philadelphia Press. It consists of a big sheet of thick brown paper upon which are traced the outlines of the martyred President's feet. Below this is a card in the handwriting of the "Immortal Abraham."

The rough draft was made by the late Dr. P. Kohler. It was during the exciting period of the late war that Mr. Lincoln sent for Dr. Kohler, who was a pioneer in what is now termed the "common sense" shoe line. The President required shoes to fit his feet and did not feel inclined to mould his feet to fit the shoes.

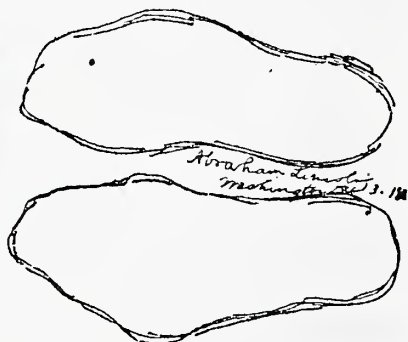
In order to map out a moccasin for his feet the Indian will place his bare foot upon a piece of rawhide and with his hunting knife cut out the sole, keeping the contour of the foot. The President's instructions were to pursue the Indian method.

As it was in time of war, and no easy matter to gain an audience with a busy and worried Chief Executive, Mr. Lincoln sent a card to the doctor, terse and to the point. It read:



The doctor never talked about the interview, but his family gathered from him that it was brief and concise.

The President pulled off his boots, stood upon the sheet of paper and Dr. Kohler outlined the feet. After the diagram was concluded the President "O. K.'d" it with his signature and the date:



The sheet of paper is now in the possession of Dr. Kohler's heirs on Broadway, near Thirteenth street, and despite all inducements, some of them extravagantly high, have refused to part with it.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LARGE FEET.

A Bootmaker's Diagram of Them for Which \$1,000 Has Been Refused. From the New York News.

An offer of \$1,000 was recently made by a Washington antiquarian for a sheet of paper upon which, 29 years ago, Abraham Lincoln allowed a shoemaker to trace the outlines of his feet.

This paper is now in New York, in possession of the original owner's son, who says he would not part with it for any sum of money. The sheet is about 12 or 14 inches in size.

The son of the Presidential bootmaker told the story of the tracing of the diagram as follows:

"Mr. Lincoln was troubled with tender feet. At that time my father was keeping shop in Washington and was locally known for a certain style of easy-fitting shoes, his own make, something after the pattern of the so-called common-sense shoe worn today. Lincoln sent for my father, and when the latter came the former rail-splitter said:

"I understand you make shoes big enough for five toes?"

"My father modestly admitted that such were his pretensions.

"Well," went on Mr. Lincoln, "if such is the case I want to give you an order."

"Lincoln then recited the trouble he had had with shoes. He had a peculiarly shaped foot, and certainly could not be fitted in any store handling ready-made goods. Then, too, he declared, he was tired of his shoemaker, and wanted a change.

"Then Lincoln took off his boots and following my father's instructions he stood on the paper while the shoemaker traced with pencil the outline of the Presidential pedals. This sheet is the one for which I recently refused \$1,000 cash."

Abraham Lincoln was considerably over 6 feet in height. He had a very large foot. The dimensions are marked in lead pencil on the sheet as follows:

Heel, across instep, left.....	14 1/2 inches
Same, right.....	14 3/8 inches
Instep, left.....	9 3/4 inches
Same, right.....	10 1/2 inches
At small toes, left.....	8 inches
Same, right.....	8 inches
Length, left.....	12 inches
Same, right.....	12 1/2 inches

Thus it will be observed that Mr. Lincoln's right foot, was half an inch longer than his left foot. This, however, according to shoemakers, is nothing out of the common. There was also an enlargement of the great toe joint of the right foot. This came from poor shoes, worn on other occasions.

Mr. Lincoln's order called for a pair of lace shoes, made of fine French calfskin. He later ordered boots and button shoes, but preferred lace shoes to any other. He liked shoes with a broad, flat sole and a low, wide heel.

1893



They Say That Lincoln Darned His Own Sox

THERE was some excuse for Lincoln, but there is *no excuse for you*. For Holeproof Hosiery, guaranteed to wear six months without holes, can now be obtained in almost every city in the country. They are knit by a special process, and the parts subject to the hardest wear are reinforced with specially spun, long fibred yarn.

Holeproof Hosiery

are soft and flexible, and as no mending is necessary, your feet are always comfortable.

Are Your Sox Insured?

If you are tired of darning and discomfort, try the Holeproof way—

Read Our Guarantee

"We guarantee to any purchaser of Holeproof Sox or Stockings that they will need no darning for Six Months. If they should, we agree to replace them with new ones, provided they are returned to us within six months from date of sale to wearer."

Sold only in boxes containing six pairs of one size—assorted colors if desired. Six months' guarantee with each pair.

Men's Holeproof Sox

Fast Colors—Black, tan (light or dark), pearl and navy blue. Sizes 9 to 12. Egyptian Cotton, medium or light weight.

Per box of six pairs **\$2.00**

Women's Holeproof Stockings

Fast Colors—Black, black legs with white feet, and tan. Sizes 8 to 11. Extra reinforced garter tops. Egyptian Cotton.

Per box of six pairs **\$2.00**

BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTES.

Insist upon getting the *original* Holeproof goods. Dishonest manufacturers are offering imitations under names as near like Holeproof Hosiery as they dare. Look for our trade mark stamped on every pair. If your dealer can't furnish you, or offers a substitute, we will supply you direct with the *genuine* Holeproof Hosiery, and prepay all shipping charges. State size, style and color wanted, enclosing purchase price. Write for free booklet.

HOLEPROOF HOSIERY COMPANY

616 Fowler Street,

Milwaukee, Wis.



See also Success Magazine, August, 1907.

Success Magazine, August, 1907.

Abe Lincoln's Foot Outlines Are on Exhibit

Ground Gripper Shoe Store Has Original Diagram on Display

Abraham Lincoln's feet are the subject of an interesting centennial week exhibit arranged by the Ground Gripper shoe store, 210 North Main street, featuring a diagram of the martyred President's lower extremities drawn from life by Peter Kahler, a Scranton, Pa., shoemaker, and founder of the system of shoe stores bearing his name.

The President's feet were a subject of much concern, for they were so large that the best boot-makers had difficulty in fitting Lincoln perfectly. Kahler volunteered to do the job and the original diagram of Lincoln's feet which he traced on a piece of cardboard on Dec. 12, 1864, as well as a card in Lincoln's handwriting giving Kahler access to the executive office for a return visit, are on display in the local store window.

No man who has larger feet than Lincoln can serve in the United States army. The diagram shows that his right foot was 11 1-2 inches long and the left foot 11 5-8 inches long. He took size 14 shoes.

Recently, the records show, a certain Private Ivey Cleveland, stationed at Camp Travis, Tex., complained that size 14 boots, largest in the army's regular stock, pinched his feet. After due consideration of the cost of making special boots for Private Cleveland, the war department gave him his honorable discharge.

The first Peter Kahler's grandson, Dr. Peter Kahler, is now associated with the research division of Orthopedic Shoes, Inc., which produces Ground Gripper shoes, as well as Kahler shoes, well known in the east.

Armed With Bootjack Made By A. Lincoln, C. L. Gandy Fights for Mt. Auburn Way

Ill State Register - Springfield 24 - 3-25-1929

Armed with an old bootjack, which family tradition says was hewn by the ax of Abe Lincoln, while a lad living in the vicinity of Springfield, C. L. Gandy of Mt. Auburn, is battling for historical accuracy as opposed to economy in the construction of the Lincoln Memorial highway.

Mr. Gandy, who is president-elect of the village board of Mt. Auburn, came to Springfield yesterday and sought an interview with the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce to secure their endorsement for the section of the proposed highway between this city and Decatur to follow the old state road via Mt. Auburn. He secured an appointment for next Monday noon when he will present his case before the local Chamber of Commerce.

Is Family Keepsake.

The bootjack was loaned to Mr. Gandy by Mrs. E. B. Shipman of McIntyre, Ia. Mrs. Shipman says the bootjack was made by Lincoln for her grandfather, James Danley, who owned a farm about 9 miles southeast of Springfield. The family tradition says that Lincoln and Danley were going through the woods one day, and Danley complained of his boots hurting his feet. Lincoln who was carrying an ax made the

bootjack, and it has been a cherished keepsake of the family.

There has been some talk of following Route 10 as one section of the Lincoln Memorial highway in order to save expense, but Mr. Grady maintains that the matter of expense is minor consideration when historical accuracy is involved. He therefore is urging that the highway follow Route 24 to Rochester and then east through Buckhart, Roby, Mt. Auburn, Osbornville, and connect with Route 48 about six miles from Decatur. It involves building about 28 miles of road, but he says through a thickly settled section of the country.

Marks Site of Old Cabin.

The old Lincoln cabin near Decatur was torn down during the Chicago world fair, according to Mr. Gandy, and the site was never marked. He interested himself in the oversight and securing the assistance of Sam Whitesides, 90, Joseph Critchman, 76, and Will Whitesides, 68, all residents of the vicinity identified the spot where the cabin stood and has it temporarily marked so that if it is rebuilt, it will stand on the exact site where the original cabin stood.

Mr. Gandy has secured the necessary right of way from all land owners living along the proposed Mt. Auburn route and intends to continue his missionary work until the final decision is made.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 377

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 29, 1936

THE POSTURE OF LINCOLN

The height of Lincoln and the size of his head, his hands, and his feet are questions which are discussed periodically with the appearance of each new feature article on any one of the above subjects. Not long ago a columnist made the statement that George Washington was the tallest of our presidents and that Lincoln's hat size was six and seven-eighths.

Stature

The names of Washington and Lincoln are associated more often than the names of other presidents, and many debates have taken place on the subject of their respective contributions to the United States of America. There should be no difference of opinion, however, as to which one was the taller of the two, as Lincoln easily wins the crown.

Henry Cabot Lodge in his *Life of Washington* quotes a letter written by David Ackerson, of Alexandria, Virginia, in which Ackerson states that Washington's exact height was six feet, two inches in his boots. George Mercer, a close friend of Washington, claimed that he was "six feet, two inches in his stockings." There seems to be no description of Washington available which places his height at more than six feet, two inches.

Those contemporary with Abraham Lincoln who have written about him have consistently used six feet, four inches as his height. While some of his friends claim he was six feet four in his stocking feet, the claim has never been made that he was more than six feet four.

Five months before Lincoln was nominated for the presidency he was invited to prepare an autobiographical sketch. In the concluding paragraph he said, "If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said I am, in height, six feet four inches, nearly, lean in flesh weighing on an average of one hundred and eighty pounds."

From the statements about Washington and Lincoln both before us, it is evident that the railsplitter was two inches taller than the father of the country.

Washington and Lincoln both changed very much in their physical appearance during the years; Washington grew heavier and Lincoln lost weight. When Washington took his seat in the House of Burgesses in 1759 at twenty-seven years of age, he is said to have weighed 175 pounds, but at forty years of age, he weighed 210 pounds. Herndon claimed that when Lincoln first came to Illinois at twenty-one years of age he must have weighed over two hundred pounds. By the time he was fifty his weight was reduced to 180 pounds and during the next five years he is said to have lost twenty pounds.

Head

The size of Lincoln's head never came in for much discussion until the late Senator Beveridge measured a hat in Chicago said to have been worn by Lincoln and claimed that the size was but six and seven-eighths. This conclusion by Beveridge as to the size of the hat Lincoln wore was given further circulation by other writers.

Robert H. Hitt was one of the official stenographers during the Lincoln and Douglas debates. He had this to say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lincoln's hat was very large. He was a man of large head, and the style at that time was to wear high and full crown silk hats. The one he wore towards the last of his life looks enormous as compared with the hats seen now days." Evidently Hitt was not under the impression that Lincoln's head was exceedingly small.

Nicolay, one of Lincoln's secretaries, in describing Lincoln's head, said it was "large with a high crown of skull"; and another contemporary said, "His forehead is high and full and swings out grandly."

Lamon, a close friend of Lincoln, who had access to the notes gathered by William Herndon, had this to say about Lincoln's head, "His head was long and tall from the base of the brain and the eyebrow, his forehead high and

narrow, but inclining backward as it rose. The diameter of his head from ear to ear was six and one-half inches and from front to back eight inches. The size of his hat was seven and one-eighth."

Henry C. Whitney in his reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln states, "His head was high, but not large; his forehead was broad at the base, but retreated, indicating marked perceptive qualities, but not great reflective ones and in this phrenology is sadly at fault. He wore a hat measuring seven and one-eighth."

The hat which Lincoln is said to have worn on the last day of his life was in the Oldroyd Collection at Washington some years ago. One who examined the hat at that time had this to say about it, "I tried it on recently and found it very heavy and cumbersome. It fitted me loosely, and was a good 7¼ in size. In addition to the heavy black band around it, there was another tiny band with a dainty buckle. This hat is in a remarkable state of preservation, and the maker's name on the lining inside shows it to have been manufactured by J. Y. Davis, of Washington, D. C."

Hands

There has never been very much discussion over the size of Lincoln's hands, as we are fortunate in having casts of both the right and left hands made at Springfield, Illinois, the day after he was nominated for the presidency. The cast of the left hand is an excellent one, but the right hand was very much swollen, due to the congratulatory hand shaking which Lincoln had received during the day on account of his nomination.

While the left hand is closed normally, Volk advised Lincoln to secure something to hold in his right hand, so he cut off about five inches of his wife's broom stick which he clenched. His hands measure ten inches in circumference following the glove fitters process of determining size.

Feet

In 1891 Dr. P. Kahler of New York published a small book on "Dress and Care of the Feet." In this book he presented drawings of both of Lincoln's feet showing the various measurements necessarily used for fitting. The right foot was twelve and one-quarter inches long and the left foot twelve inches. Lincoln's signature and the date December 13, 1864, appear on the diagram, evidently written by Lincoln.

Dr. Kahler made the following comments with reference to his contact with Lincoln:

"Abraham Lincoln was six feet and four inches in height, and had a very large foot. He knew the importance of proper clothing for the foot, and hearing Dr. P. Kahler, he sent for him and procured a pair of shoes made upon the Kahler last.

"At a recent session of the Health Association the original model of Mr. Lincoln's foot as drawn by Dr. Kahler was exhibited. Visitors to the establishment of P. Kahler & Sons, 813-815 Broadway, can see the original order given by Mr. Lincoln for the admission of Dr. Kahler to the White House in Washington, and the drawing of Mr. Lincoln's foot made from life by Dr. Kahler, from which his shoes were made."

Many years ago a newspaper in Lynn, Massachusetts, published an article in which it was claimed that the boots Lincoln wore at the time of his assassination were in that city, having come into possession of the owner through William Clark who occupied the room where Lincoln was taken after his assassination. This brief description of the boots was given:

"The boots are old-fashioned, long-legged affairs, with square toes. They are much narrower than one would suppose a man his height would wear. The upper part of the legs are made of a heavy reddish-brown leather, but the rest of the foot is of a fine black material. They show considerable wear, although not worn at any part."

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1938.

---MISCELLANEOUS---

LINCOLN HAD ACHING FEET.

**Chiropodist Attributes Lumber-
ing Walk to Pain.**

(By the Associated Press.)

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 22.—Abraham Lincoln's lumbering, ungainly walk was attributed today to abnormally large and aching feet.

Dr. Neal C. McBane of Cleveland, attending the annual convention of the National Association of Chiropodists, recalled that the Civil war President wore a size 14B shoe and suffered constantly from foot pains.

Lincoln's 'Large and Bony Feet' Won Army Post for Chiropodist

Abraham Lincoln had trouble with his "large and bony feet" and summoned to the White House a chiropodist to administer to them. Dr. D. J. M. Hogan, of Albany, president of the New York State Podiatry Society, told 350 chiropodists yesterday at the annual meeting of the Podiatry Society of the State of New York in the Hotel Pennsylvania.

"So happy was Mr. Lincoln to be relieved of his pain that a lasting friendship was begun," said Dr. Hogan, who identified the chiropodist as Dr. Isachar Zacharie. "With the help of Dr. Zacharie the head of the

nation was able to resume his excursions and better grapple with the issues at stake, for Mr. Lincoln believed that a man could think better and act more wisely while on his feet. In recognition for his services the President commissioned Dr. Zacharie "chiropodist general to the United States Army."

Another speaker, Dr. William W. Dornstreich, decried the changes in shoe construction during the last few years and blamed toeless shoes in particular for causing an increased number of chilblain cases among women.

Lincoln's Boots



Cynthia Haley holds up the boots Abraham Lincoln wore when he was assassinated. Ruth Hatch, Lynn, Mass., history teacher, says that she inherited them from her grandfather, Justin Hatch, a Civil War secret service agent. He received them, family tradition states, from a friend and fellow lodger in the Washington rooming house where the President was carried after he was shot in nearby Ford's Theater. (AP)

Lincoln's 'Death' Boots



—Associated Press Wirephoto

CYNTHIA HALEY

Miss Haley holds up the boots Abraham Lincoln wore when he was assassinated. Ruth Hatch, Lynn, history teacher, says she inherited them from her grandfather, Justin Hatch, a Civil War Secret Service agent. He received them, family tradition states, from a friend and fellow-lodger in the Washington rooming house where the President was carried after he was shot in nearby Ford's Theater. The boots were authenticated years ago by a representative of the New York firm that made them for Lincoln, Miss Hatch said.

NEW HAVEN EVENING REGISTER, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 1947

German Prisoners Die

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 21, 1952

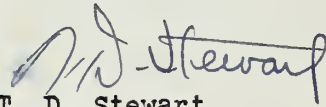
Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

At the suggestion of Miss Margaret Brown of this Institution and Mr. McClure of the Lincoln Museum, I am writing to ask whether you know of the existence of any of Lincoln's boots or shoes, aside from the pair in the Lincoln Museum. I am interested particularly in Lincoln's foot size as determinable from his shoe size.

You will recall that Dr. Kahler made drawings of Lincoln's feet. These drawings are reproduced in Kahler's publications but I have no way of knowing whether they are accurately reproduced. Do you know whether the original drawings are still in existence, and if so whether accurate reproductions can be obtained? Also, do you know whether the figures on these drawings have been interpreted? It seems unlikely that Lincoln's feet were 12" long, as assumed by Mr. McMurtry in his article on the size of Lincoln's feet in the Lincoln Log Cabin Almanac, 1940. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



T. D. Stewart
Curator, Division of
Physical Anthropology

TDS:leh



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUN 20 1957

Mr. J. A. Webb
New Holland
Georgia

Dear Mr. Webb:

We have received your recent postal card requesting certain information on the personal belongings of Abraham Lincoln.

The size of the boots worn by President Lincoln on the night of the assassination is 10-C, according to a shoe expert who examined them.

It is our understanding that there are several watches used by Lincoln at various times. For information on these watches it is suggested that you contact the Lincoln National Life Foundation, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne 1, Indiana.

Sincerely yours,

Frank T. Gartside

Frank T. Gartside
Assistant Superintendent

forward
Please, the information in the last paragraph to:

J. A. Webb
New Holland,
Georgia



JOSEPH BURGER

Factory and Salesroom
781 East 142nd Street
New York 54, New York

• • • MANUFACTURER OF FINE SHOES • • •

Feb. 9, 1962

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Att: Dr. L.A. Warren

Dear Doctor Warren:

I understand that you have in the Lincoln Collection newspaper clippings of the outline of Lincoln's feet. If a photostat or photo print is available I would like a copy, as I am making casts of Lincoln's feet after Dr. Kahler's measurements which he took of the emancipator's feet.

*2 photostats sent:
"Footprints on Sands
of Time"
"A Great Man's
Feet"
1-16-62*

Frankly I question the accuracy of some of Dr. Kahler's measurements and would like to compare them with the ones in your file before I complete sculpturing the casts I am now working on.

Please inform me what the charges are. I shall be glad to remit same by return mail.

See the enclosed clipping.

Cordially yours,

Joseph Burger
Joseph Burger

JB:gh

GETTYSBURG

Gabor S. Boritt
Robert C. Fluhrer Professor
of Civil War Studies
Director, Civil War Institute
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

*Marilyn -
file this
in shoes/Boots*

Gettysburg College

(717) 337-6555

September 4, 1989

Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Director
The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
P.O. Box 1110
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mark:

Thank you very much for commenting on the end product of my foot fetish. I enclose footnotes 25-32 which my office failed to send you. Number 27 is worth reading since it explains how I dealt with what appears to me false claims about Lincoln boots.

I found it hurtful to comment on the Hatch boots, which now belong to Ford's Theatre, because one of the Hatch descendants is such a nice, helpful woman. I think all her family over the generations believed in good faith that they had Lincoln's boots. However, it rather seems that some small time crooks gave the original Hatch a pair of large boots, as security against a loan, and then took off for the wild blue yonder.

Best wishes, *end of foot fetish.*

Sincerely,

Gabor

P.S. The Redlands people now have the talk typeset -- by far the worst job I have ever seen. I sent them a disc but they couldn't use it.

Enclosures

25. *Ibid.*; "A Great Man's Feet" clipping, handdated 1882; "Footprints on the Sand of Time" clipping, 1945, Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library.
26. Blumenstine to Boritt, July 23, and August 9, 1982.
27. See acknowledgments; also "Condition Report and Estimate, October 14, 1986," and "Final Report, August 1, 1987," Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts, Philadelphia; "A Great Man's Feet"; "Moccasins worn by Abraham Lincoln," Accession No. 1952.76 ab, Chicago Historical Society; John Hay to John G. Nicolay, August 11, 1862, in Tyler Dennett, ed., Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay (New York, 1939), 43. See also Carl Sandburg, Lincoln Collector: The Story of Oliver R. Barrett's Great Private Collection (New York, 1950), 207.

Claims about authentic Lincoln artifacts are many often questionable. In addition to the moccasin slippers, I tracked numerous assertions about Lincoln footwear which turned out to be false. Only two claims deserve notice. First, Ford's Theatre owns a pair of boots purported to have been the president's. They fit neither the authentic nor the made-up outline. The boots have a seemingly fine provenance, having come down in the family of Justin H. Hatch, who in 1865 was employed by the U.S. Treasury. How Hatch obtained the boots is the problem. Family tradition indicates that Hatch got the boots from two government clerks, William Clark (in whose room Lincoln died) and his friend Augustus Clark. Like Hatch, they were both from Massachusetts. On May 30, 1865 William lost his job--having complained in writing that government food was repulsive. Presumably soon after he and Augustus Clark approached Hatch, requesting a loan so as to be able to seek their fortune out west. They offered Lincoln relics as security. By that time Augustus Clark had made some large claims about his role at the time of Lincoln's assassination, and also tried unsuccessfully to sell to the Governor of Massachusetts a lock of purported presidential hair. The two Clarks had better luck with Hatch who loaned them money and took the relics as security, including a pair of large boots. Neither the Clarks nor the money were ever heard of again, but the boots and some of the story survived with the Hatch descendants. Whose boots were these? We may never know. The most diligent researcher of the story of the boots, Robert C. Marcotte, asked--knowing that the martyred president's clothing was retrieved after his death--"Why were Lincoln's boots left behind? . . . I have asked myself this questions a thousand times and I wonder if I will ever have an answer." Perhaps the answer is that the boots were not left behind. [Robert C. Marcotte, "The Saga of Lincoln's Boots," unpublished ms.; and Marcotte to Boritt, Feb 25, 1989, enclosing transcripts of interviews with Ruth Hatch, Feb 26, 1976, and Ethel Powers, Oct. 22, 1976 (granddaughters of Justin H. Hatch); Pamela Ann Carroll (great-great granddaughter of Justin H. Hatch) to Boritt, Feb. 17, 1989, with enclosures; Augustus Clark to Stephen M. Allen, April 16, 1865 and Clark to John A. Andrew, May 5, 1865, Massachusetts Historical Society; Ford Theatre's file on boots, and correspondence between Frank Hebblethwaite (acting curator at Ford's) and Boritt, 1982-89.]

Another "Lincoln boot," which the president might have been able to squeeze his feet into more readily than the Ford Theatre boots, is at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, Chicago. The boot was purchased circa 1949-50 by Jack R. Silverman, shoe collector and podiatrist, from a Washington shoemaker with a repair shop located across from Ford's Theatre. The owner's grandfather, also a shoemaker, and the original owner of the shop, had "sworn" that the boots were Lincoln's. It had been brought in for stretching from the nearby White House and had never been picked up. "Whether the story was true or false," Dr. Silverman later said, "I could not resist the urge to buy this boot." In the 1970's he donated it to the Scholl College. Richard S. Klein to Boritt, June 26, 1989 and telephone interview with Klein, July 14, 1989; telephone interview with Jack R. Silverman, July 14, 1989. Neither the Ford Theatre nor the Scholl College boots have Lincoln's name on them, though the latter might have had the name in the missing boot. The name would be expected "due to pride" of the bootmaker, to quote Joseph Burger, shoe history expert consulted by Ford's Theatre. Burger memo, June 6, 1956; cf June Swann to Boritt, June 23, 1989.

28. The ensuing discussion is based on Boritt and Boritt, "Lincoln and the Marfan Syndrome."
29. Newsweek, June 11, 1962; St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press, February 10, 1963.
30. William H. Herndon to Ward Hill Lamon, March 6, 1970 (LN 366), Herndon-Lamon Papers, Huntington Library; Paul M. Angle, ed., Herndon's Life of Lincoln (Greenwich CT, 1921), 46-47. The second part of the quotation is reproduced in its commonly cited version, as it appears in the book. In Herndon's original letter the sentence reads: "All that I am or hope ever to be I get from my mother--God bless her." Elsewhere Herndon wrote: "And now again, who was the father of Nancy Hanks, the mother of the President of the United States? Will some gentleman, some lady tell me? The father of Nancy Hanks is no other than a Virginia planter, large farmer of the highest and best blood of Virginia, and it is just here that Nancy got her good rich blood, tinged with genius." "Nancy Hanks, August 20, 1887," Emanuel Hertz, The Hidden Lincoln, From the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon (New York, 1940), 412.
31. Lloyd Lewis, Myths After Lincoln (New York, 1929), 405.
32. Diary of Prince Napoleon (nephew of Napoleon III) as quoted in Jean H. Baker, Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography (New York, 1987), 199-200; Anthony Gross, Lincoln's Own Stories (New York, 1940), 103.

www.chicagotribune.com/features/style/sc-fash-0125-fashion-briefs-20100129,0,2598424.story

chicagotribune.com

Obama's got new shoes; plus GQ's stylish crew

By Wendy Donahue, Tribune Newspapers

January 31, 2010

Nashville, Tenn., shoemaker Johnston & Murphy has presented handcrafted footwear to every American president since Millard Fillmore in 1850. The tradition continues with President Barack Obama's selection of a sleek black oxford, a more contemporary choice than many previous presidents.



Fort Wayne - Mom Lost 46lbs Following 1 Rule

I cut down 46lbs of stomach fat in a month by obeying this 1 rule
[Read More](#)

→ In a nod to Obama's admiration for former President Abraham Lincoln, Johnston & Murphy also created a pair of boots for Obama inspired by the pair the company made for Lincoln in 1861. Among the differences are that Obama's are smaller, a size 12 — Lincoln was a size 14, the largest of all the presidents.



DON'T Pay For White Teeth

Fort Wayne Mom discovers one simple trick to turn yellow teeth white from home for under \$5
[Read More](#)

Come fall, a Handcrafted in Italy collection inspired by Obama's selection will be available in Johnston & Murphy stores nationwide and online at johnstonmurphy.com.

GQ's most stylish

With Johnny Depp topping the list, the February issue of GQ names the "25 Most Stylish Men in the World for 2010." Robert Pattinson, David Beckham, Ed Westwick, Ryan Gosling, Jay-Z, Tom Brady, Anderson Cooper and LeBron James make the list. Less predictable choices include the British comic Russell Brand, who played the rock star in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and who likes his clothes shrunken. (When are jeans tight enough? When "blood comes out of your ears," he says.)

Project maternity

After four pregnancies, Heidi Klum has designed maternity lines for A Pea in the Pod and Motherhood Maternity. Lavish by Heidi Klum arrives in A Pea in the Pod stores and at apeainthepod.com on Feb. 12 and includes a black knit maxi dress (\$128). Her second line, Loved, hits Motherhood Maternity stores and motherhood.com on Feb. 12 and includes dark wash second-skin jeans (\$34.98).

Mini Boden Nordstrom-bound

Boden, the beloved whimsical children's apparel line of the British catalog and online purveyor, now is available stateside. Nordstrom stores are introducing Mini Boden in all of its colorful charm; it will hit the Nordstrom Web site later.



Johnston & Murphy has handcrafted footwear for every American president since Millard Fillmore in 1850 -- including Abraham Lincoln's boots, above. This tradition continues with President Obama. (HANDOUT / January 11, 2010)

Do You Know?

1. *What size shoe did Lincoln wear?*
2. *What is the derivation of the word "pajamas"?*
3. *Why are kid gloves so called?*
4. *When were thimbles first used by tailors and those who sew.*
5. *How many separate operations are required to fabricate a pair of shoes in the modern factory?*
6. *What is the best known method of keeping pearl buttons from becoming discolored before they are sewn on shirts or other articles of apparel?*
7. *What is the navy custom of sewing thirteen buttons across the top of sailors' trousers?*
8. *What is the trimming termed "Astrachan"?*
9. *What is meant by the term "in vogue"?*
10. *Why is a certain kind of thread called worsted?*

How many of these Questions can You answer—before you turn to Page 34 for the Answers?

What questions—either on merchandise or salesmanship—are uppermost in your mind? Send them in—the Questions and Answers Editor, 808 Michigan-Ohio Bldg., Chicago, will endeavor to give you the correct answers. Write them out and mail them in today.

Answers to "Do You Know—"

Listed on Page 15

1—Abraham Lincoln wore a shoe two sizes larger than that stocked by the factories, namely size 14.

* * *

2—We derive the word "pajamas" from the Hindu combination of two words "piu" meaning leg and "jama" signifying garment, thus the pajama is a leg garment.

* * *

3—Kid Gloves are now known by this title but most are made from lamb's skin. Only the better grades and very few of those are still fabricated from the soft tanned hide of the kid.

* * *

4—The use of thimbles as an aid to sewing is a very ancient origin. Bronze thimbles in profusion being found in the ruins of Babylon.

* * *

5—In the modern factory, even by the aid of most improved machinery, 340 separate operations are required to fabricate a pair of shoes by the aid of 210 pair of hands.

* * *

6—To keep pearl buttons free from discoloration before use,

they should be sprinkled well with powdered Magnesia and allowed to remain in their original wrapping or box, preferably in a darkened receptacle.

* * *

7—The navy custom of sewing 13 buttons across the top of sail-or pants was conceived by tailors many years ago to represent the 13 original colonies.

* * *

8—Astrachan is now fabricated by the use of a soft curled yarn in close imitation of the original or pelts of the young lamb native of the Providence of Astrakhana.

* * *

9—To state that one is "in vogue" originated with the French term "voguer", meaning to row, sail, or be wafted, hence vogue means to go with the current or tide.

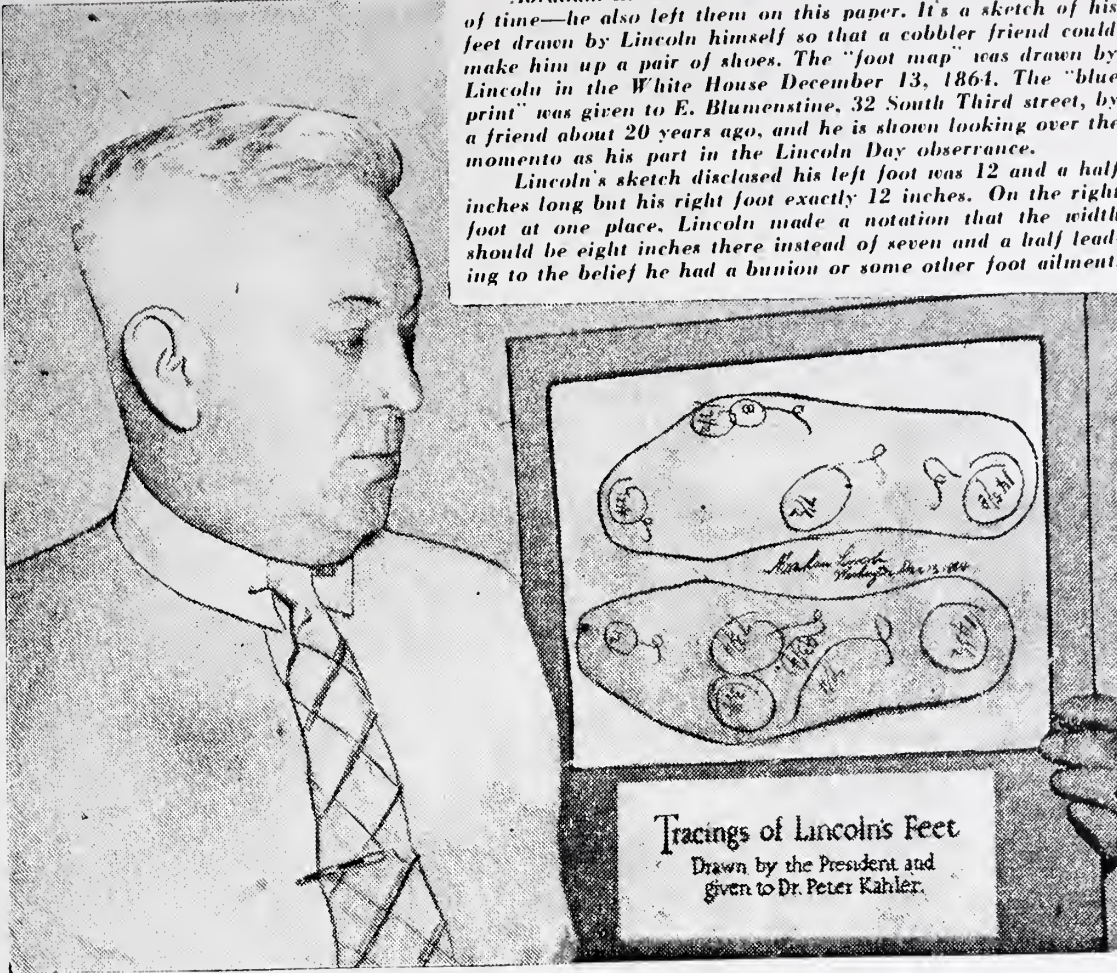
* * *

10—We get the term worsted, as applied to yarn or thread, from the fact that it was first made in Worstead, England, about the 15th Century, the spelling of the town at that time being Worsted.

Footprints on the Sands of Time

Abraham Lincoln not only left his footprints on the sands of time—he also left them on this paper. It's a sketch of his feet drawn by Lincoln himself so that a cobbler friend could make him up a pair of shoes. The "foot map" was drawn by Lincoln in the White House December 13, 1864. The "blue print" was given to E. Blumenstine, 32 South Third street, by a friend about 20 years ago, and he is shown looking over the memento as his part in the Lincoln Day observance.

Lincoln's sketch disclosed his left foot was 12 and a half inches long but his right foot exactly 12 inches. On the right foot at one place, Lincoln made a notation that the width should be eight inches there instead of seven and a half leading to the belief he had a bunion or some other foot ailment.



LINCOLN FEET

WHEN Longfellow wrote those lines about great men leaving behind them "footprints on the sands of time," he certainly couldn't have known that a set of Abraham Lincoln's footprints on a piece of paper would be a cherished possession of a Harrisburger.

Such is the case, however, and E. Blumenstine, 32 South Third street, is the proud possessor of footprints Abraham Lincoln once made and signed so he could get a pair of shoes to fit him.

* * *

20 YEARS

THE footprints were made by Lincoln on December 13, 1864, and showed that his right foot was twelve inches long while his left foot was a quarter of an inch longer.

The Civil War President may have been suffering from a bunion or something like that at the time, because at one place on the right foot a slight bulge is shown with the notation that the width at that point was eight inches instead of seven and a half inches less than an inch away.

Blumenstine has had the prints for about twenty years. They were given to him by a friend, who had obtained them from Dr. Peter Kahler, the shoemaker to whom Lincoln had sent the footprints.

* * *



One of the visitors to the White House
described Lincoln moccasins
as embroidered with deer horns

Latitude and Longitude.

An old countrywoman called upon Lincoln to present him with a pair of stockings a yard long—she had knitted them herself. He was touched and held them up to be admired by all the officials present. "I thank you, ma'am," he said, with tears in his eyes, "I shall take them with me to Washington, where I am sure they have nothing like them."

George Boutwell, afterward secretary of the treasury, set everybody into a gale of laughter by declaring: "Well, this lady certainly made a very correct estimate of your latitude and longitude."
